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About the author

Willem Nicolaas Welvaart, Pim, was born in Leiden, the Netherlands on March 16th, 1970. He completed secondary school (VWO) at the Boerhaave College in Leiden. Subsequently, he started studying medical school at the University of Leuven, Belgium. During his study period in Leuven (B), he completed a microvascular surgery study program at the Centre of Surgical Technology in Leuven (B), under supervision of prof. dr. T. Lerut. He was a member of a research group under supervision of prof. dr. L. Feenstra and prof. dr. P.D. Delaere, studying the role of immunosuppression in the long-term survival of tracheal allografts.

After six years of study at the University of Leuven (B), he finished his study in the Netherlands and obtained his Medical Degree from the University of Leiden (Cum Laude). After a period working as a surgical resident, not in training, he started his surgical training at the Zuider Ziekenhuis Rotterdam (dr. K.J. Brouwer) and the final two years of surgical training at the Thorax Centrum Rotterdam (prof. dr. A.J.J.C. Bogers) and the Erasmus Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (prof. dr. J.N.M. IJzermans). He worked as a surgeon at the Bronovo Ziekenhuis, Den Haag, after finishing his surgical training. After one year he started a fellowship General Thoracic Surgery (dr. M.A. Paul) at the VU Medisch Centrum, Amsterdam. During this period he started research for this thesis, at the department of General Thoracic Surgery and the department of Pulmonary Diseases, under supervision of prof. dr. A. Vonk Noordegraaf.

Currently he is a member of the surgical staff at the Ziekenhuis Rivierenland, Tiel.

He is married to Lonneke Paijens and has three children, Thomas, Daan and Fenne.

